

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as indicated in the following recitation of pending claims:

Claims 1. – 22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously presented) A method for downloading applications stored in an application database that is coupled to a cellular communication network, said method comprising:

connecting a first mobile terminal with the application database through the cellular communication network, the application database containing at least one application having a selectable lifetime;

choosing an application of the at least one application for downloading to the first mobile terminal;

providing the application database with information identifying a user of the first mobile terminal;

selecting a lifetime for the chosen application, during which lifetime the chosen application is executable;

downloading the chosen application from said application database to the first mobile terminal; and

storing indicia of the selected lifetime for the chosen application and of the information identifying the user, wherein the stored indicia corresponds to the selected lifetime during which the chosen application is further executable at mobile terminals accessible by the user.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the step of downloading the chosen application is performed over a wireless connection.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the step of downloading over a wireless connection is performed through the cellular communication network

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the step of downloading over a wireless connection is achieved by way of a short-range connection.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the short-range connection is an infrared connection.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the indicia is stored in an application-license database in connection with the application database.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the information identifying the user is based on SIM information.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, further comprising the steps of:

receiving in the application database a request from the user for a subsequent downloading of a previously-downloaded application;

determining whether lifetime remains by reference to the stored indicia of the selected lifetime for previously-downloaded application for the user; and

downloading the application a subsequent time, if it is determined that at least a portion of the selected lifetime remains for the requested application.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the request is received from a second mobile terminal.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the subsequent downloading comprises downloading the application to a second mobile terminal.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising the step of refusing the request for subsequent downloading if the determination indicates that lifetime has expired in the stored indicia for said user.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the step of downloading is performed over a wireless connection.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the step of downloading over a wireless connection is performed through the cellular communication network

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the downloading over a wireless connection is achieved by way of a short-range connection.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the short-range connection is infrared connection.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the lifetime is a period of time measured from a predetermined starting time.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the predetermined starting time is the time of downloading the chosen application.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the lifetime is a predetermined number of downloads.

41. (Previously presented) In a communication system having at least one mobile terminal capable of communicating by way of a radio link with network infrastructure, the at least one mobile terminal having memory for at least one application, an improvement of apparatus for downloading an application to the at least one mobile terminal, said apparatus comprising:

an application database coupled to the network infrastructure, the application database containing at least one downloadable application, the application having a selectable lifetime during which the application is permitted to remain executable by an identified user;

a detector coupled to the network infrastructure, the detector for detecting a request containing information identifying a user to download a chosen application of the at least one application contained at the application database, the detector for obtaining the application from the application database, and for downloading the application to the at least one mobile terminal to be installed thereat;

an application-license database coupled to the network infrastructure, the application-license database for storing the selected lifetime and the user-identifying information; and

a downloading server, the downloading server coupled to the detector, the downloading server coupled to the application database, and the downloading server coupled to the application-license database;

wherein the downloading server is configured to compare the download request to the selected lifetime and the user-identifying information stored in the application-license database for the chosen application, wherein the downloading server downloads said application if the user has application lifetime remaining for the requested application.

42. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 41 wherein said downloadable application is preprogrammed with the selected lifetime, wherein the downloadable application deletes itself from the at least one mobile terminal when the selected lifetime expires.

43. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the selected lifetime expires as a function of a selected number of transactions.

44. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the lifetime expires as a function of a selected time.

45. (New) A mobile terminal operable in a wireless communication system, said mobile terminal comprising:
a central processing unit (CPU);
a memory unit coupled with the CPU for storing at least one application;
an application requestor coupled with the CPU for generating requests to download variable-lifetime application from an application database;
a lifetime selector coupled with the CPU for selecting a lifetime applicable to a downloaded application;
a lifetime determiner coupled with the CPU for determining the remaining portion of the lifetime associated with a downloaded application; and
an application disabler coupled with the CPU for disabling an application;
wherein the mobile terminal is operable to receive and store downloaded applications and to permit the downloaded application to be executed at the mobile terminal as long as a portion of the associated lifetime remains.

46. (New) The mobile terminal of claim 45, wherein the application disabler disables an application when the associated lifetime has expired.

47. (New) The mobile terminal of claim 45, wherein the application disabler deletes an application with lifetime remaining in order to free storage space in the memory unit.

48. (New) The mobile terminal of claim 45, wherein the application requester is operable to request a previously-downloaded application for which at least a portion of the associated lifetime remains.

49. (New) The mobile terminal of claim 45, wherein the memory unit also stores lifetime indicia associated with downloaded applications.

50. (New) A server operable in a wireless communication system, said server comprising:

- a detector for detecting a request to download an application to a mobile terminal in communication with the wireless communication system;

- a lifetime determiner for determining whether the requested application has at least a portion of a previously-selected lifetime available;

- an application-database interface for retrieving the application from an application database where the application is stored;

- an application downloader for downloading the application to the mobile terminal;

- wherein the application will only be downloaded if the lifetime determiner determines that the requested application has at least a portion of the a previously-selected lifetime available.

51. (New) The server of claim 50, further comprising a memory unit for storing lifetime indicia.

52. (New) The server of claim 50, wherein the server is operable to communicate with the mobile terminal via a short-range radio communication.